

Andrew Laurie returned to continue his marine iguana investigations, assisted by Thomas Woollard and Charles Fairhurst.

#### OCTOBER

Joint fish studies of National Institute for Galapagos, National Institute of Fisheries and CDRS began.

Peter Kramer, CDF President, spent a week at the Station.

Juan Black, Sec. Gen. of CDF, and Raúl Moscoso, Chairman of the Ecuadorean Group of the CDF, arrived for consultations.

Arturo Vizcaino, National Director of IECE, came to discuss educational problems with Gonzalo Oviedo, CDRS co-ordinator of education.

Phyllis Bentley began a 6-month project collecting plants for Paul Colinvaux, Ohio State University.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**Conservation and Evolution:** by *O.H. Frankel and M.E. Soulé*, Cambridge University Press, 1981. 335 p.p. Hardback £25. Paperback £7.95.

The authors outline their purpose in their first paragraph: "In this book we attempt to bring together the genetic principles for the conservation of all forms of life, wild or domesticated, lions or lizards, oaks or orchids, cattle or ducks, rice or potatoes. The unifying factor underlying survival and adaptation, in time and space, is genetic diversity; and the nature, distribution and preservation of genetic diversity is the central theme of this book."

This is a pathfinding study of the relationship between evolutionary theory and practical nature conservation, the long-term problem that underlies the Charles Darwin Foundation's task in the Galapagos and the management of nature reserves anywhere. It also deals with the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and domesticated animals. The chapter headings indicate the ground covered: The process of extinction; Population genetics and conservation; Evolutionary genetics and conservation; Nature reserves; General principles and the genetics of captive propagation of animals; The role of botanical gardens in conservation; The genetic diversity of plants used by man; The conservation of plants used by man; Conservation of livestock genetic resources.

Sir Otto Frankel and Dr. Soulé are to be congratulated on this bold effort to ally genetic theory with practical conservation management, emphasizing the significance of genetic diversity and the long-term consequences of the accelerating increase in the rate of extinction of species.

G.T.C.S.